CASHEW

(Anacardium occidentale, Anacardiaceae)

Cashew is native of south Eastern Brazil, from where it was introduced to Malabar Coast of India in the sixteenth century to cover baren hills and for soil conservation.

Though India produces only 40% of the world production of cashew nuts, it meets 90 percent of the world export of cashew kernels. The export earning from cashew constitutes about 2 percent of the total foreign earning from agricultural produces. Cashew growing area is centered only on the coastal area in India. Kerala followed by Tamilnadu occupy more area under cashew nut.

Botany

The cashew tree is a low spreading, evergreen tree with a very prominent tap root. The leaves are alternative, simple, glabrous, obovate, round and pinnately veined. The inflorescence is an indeterminate panicle of polygamo monoecious type i.e. flowers are either bisexual or staminate but both occur intermixed in the same inflorescence. On the same tree, the perfect flowers are larger in size than the staminate. Pollination is carried out by flies, bees, and ants as well as by wind. The fleshy peduncle, the 'cashew apple', is juicy and sweet when ripe. The apple varies in size, colour, juice content and taste. It is rich source of vitamin c and sugar. The cashew fruit is a kidney shaped drupaceous nut, greenish grey in colour. The nuts vary in size, shape, weight (3-20g) and shelling percentage (15 –30%).

Cashew flower

Cashew apple and cashew

Varieties

The important characteristics of some of the cultivars of cashew are as follows.

Sl. No	Variety	Nut yield (Kg/tree)	Nut wt (g)	Shelling (%)	Kernel wt (g)	Grade	State	Year
1	Amrutha	18.5	7.18	31.58	2.10	W210	Kerala	1998
2	Subala	21.90	9.80	29.40	2.88	W210	Kerala	1996
3	Priyanka	17.03	10.8	26.57	2.87	W180	Kerala	1995
4	Madakathara	17.00	7.25	26.00	1.88	W210	Kerala	1990
5	Vengurla-1	19.0	6.2	31.0	1.39	W240	Maharastra	1974
6	Vengurla-2	24.0	4.30	32.0	1.00	W320	Maharastra	1979
7	Vengurla-4	17.2	7.70	31.0	1.91	W210	Maharastra	1981
8	Vengurla-5	16.6	4.5	30.0	1.00	W400	Maharastra	1984
9	Vengurla-7	18.5	10.0	30.0	2.90	W180	Maharastra	1997
10	VRI-1	7.20	5.0	28.0	1.40	W240	TamilNadu	1981
11	VRI-2	7.40	5.10	28.3	1.45	W240	TamilNadu	1985
12	VRI-3	11.68	7.18	19.1	2.16	W210	TamilNadu	1992
13	VRI-4	16.60	6.63	28.5	1.70	W320	TamilNadu	2000

Ullal-1: It is a high yielding (19.6 kg nuts/tree) variety released for entire Karnataka. This is an early bearing cultivar with high sex ratio (male: bisexual) and high shelling percentage (30.7%).The size of the nut is medium. The flowering commences from last week of November and extends up to middle of March and harvesting is completed by May thus enabling to escape the monsoon showers which otherwise results in the loss of crop. The variety has 144nuts per kg and medium sized apples with yellow colour.

Ullal-2: This is another high yielding (17.9kg nuts /tree) variety released for entire Karnataka. This variety also possesses desirable characters, such as, early flowering and bearing, high sex ratio and high shelling percentage (30%) and as such highly

congenial for cultivation in hill zone. It has 164nuts/kg with medium sized and yellowish red apple.

Ullal-3: This variety flowers from November-January and the flowering period extends for 60-70days.The nuts can be harvested in January – March for nearly 60-90days.The average yield per tree is 14.68kg (at the 10th year) and the shelling percentage is 30.00.

Selections S-2 & S-3: These selections are released from National Cashew Research Centre (South Kanara) for cultivation in Karnataka. They give an average yield of 8-10kg nuts/tree with a shelling percentage of 29.

BPP-5: It is a selection from the Cashew Research Centre, Bapatla (Andhra Pradesh) and is found to be the highest yielder (42.1kg dry nuts/tree on an average) with a shelling percentage of 26.7

Ullal 4

Un 50

Madakathara

BPP 8

Vengurla 7

Vengurla 4

Vrl 3

Priyanka